I oppose the use of cell phones aboard airborne aircraft. Cell phone use in crowded, enclosed public spaces is selfish and disruptive. In the thousands of cell phone conversations I've been exposed to in my daily commute, and in other public places (restaurants, airports, etc.) not one stands out as bearing any resemblance to an emergency, either personal or business. They are just annoying to the captive audience around them who have to listen, whether they want to listen or not.

I'm concerned that forcing dozens of people to listen to a fellow passenger prattle endlessly on about an upcoming hernia operation will lead to plane rage that will ultimately make flying even less safe than it is now. There are two major problems with being captive to a public cell phone conversation. First is the fact that people talk much louder on the cell phone than when engaging in a personal conversation. That volume makes the cell phone conversation impossible to ignore or filter out in crowded conditions, like on an airplane. It is not "white noise" that kind of eventually fades into the background. It is totally the opposite. Try as you might you cannot shut it out. Second is the fact that you are hearing only one side of the conversation. Your brain, despite your best efforts to ignore the conversation, is always trying to piece together the missing part of the conversation to make sense of it all.

There are times for the betterment of humanity as a whole that certain constraints are put on individual "rights." This is one of those times. Society has thrived without cell phone conversations aboard airborne aircraft. We can continue to do so.

Thank you,

Brian L. Riley
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